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GENERAL

1. Soviet attitude disturbs Austrian leaders--According to US Legation Vienna, Austrian Foreign Minister Gruber has indicated that he has scant hope for early agreement on the Austrian treaty primarily because of the increasingly unfriendly interviews he and the Austrian Premier have had with Soviet Deputy High Commissioner Zheltov. In support of his fears of renewed Soviet pressure on the Austrian people, Gruber points to: (a) the revival of lawlessness in the Soviet Zone; (b) Soviet propaganda about neo-Nazism and war criminals; and (c) Soviet unfriendliness to Austrian officials. Gruber expresses the hope that the London treaty negotiations will not completely bog down and says that the Austrian Government will avoid any display of impatience that would aid Soviet moves to frighten the Austrian people.

(CIA Comment: CIA believes that the present Soviet actions in Austria reflect the Kremlin's desire to delay conclusion of an Austrian treaty.)

State Dept. review completed

Document No. 9
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CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)
DATE: 16 MAR 1978
BY: []

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